

engaging the attention of so many investigators throughout the world, the publication of the present volume is very welcome.

In Dr. Allen's book the practical and technical side of radiography has been briefly treated, and there has been more space given to the therapeutic effects. Elementary electrophysics and shadow pictures have been omitted, and the subjects of Radio-activity and High-Frequency Currents are considered at length.

As the science advances and our experience broadens, we are able to state in more exact terms what the dosage of a therapeutic agent should be, and this, as shown by the author, is equally true in this branch of therapeutics.

The volume is divided into seven parts,—General Consideration upon Radiology, Diagnosis, Radiotherapy, Light, Actinotherapy, Radio-activity, and High-Frequency Currents.

The first few sections present nothing especially new, while the chapters on Radio-activity and High-Frequency Currents are very interesting and instructive. The book will find its greatest usefulness in the hands of those who have already mastered the elements of the science.

PAUL M. PILCHER.

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS: A PRACTICAL TREATISE FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By JOHN H. MUSSER, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, etc. Fifth Edition. Pp. 1213; fully illustrated in colors. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1904.

There may properly be some difference of opinion as to the form which a treatise on diagnosis should take. One may justly claim that between the covers of such a book should be found everything which can bear upon every form of disease, but in the arrangement of this material lies its real value. The student will look for the logical development from the single symptom to the group that characterizes the disease, and the comparison that distinguishes similar groups. He may expect greater detail and a

more discursive treatment, the analysis of individual symptoms in their relation to the entire complex, and the discussion of the relative value of each. Such a treatment of the subject is eminently scientific and scholarly, but it tends rather towards the Practice of Medicine than Diagnostics. Those who turn most eagerly to a book of reference are the puzzled practitioners who have no time for deliberate study, and welcome a system that makes it possible, by the consideration of a few cardinal symptoms, to apply their already acquired technique in the briefest time and with the least exertion.

Just how far laboratory methods should enter into general practice must rest with each practitioner. There can be no question of the desirability of routine examination of all the available secretions, but this requires time to do properly and skill to execute, and unless painstaking, deliberate, and accurate, such examinations are more than useless. The younger generation is being taught all this, and in time it will be possible for every physician, if not already himself equipped, to call to his aid some one who is.

Turning from such general considerations to the consideration of "Medical Diagnosis," one is first of all impressed with the vast amount of material here accumulated, and the evidences of painstaking care in its classification and arrangement. We are assured that the entire book has been rewritten and rearranged along the lines that one would naturally employ in taking a history, and that the illustrations have been doubled.

Of the 1213 pages, 700 are devoted to the methods and instruments of diagnosis, 482 to the diagnosis of special diseases, and 31 to a good index. Nine pages, including six plates, four of them skiagraphs, are devoted to the Röntgen ray in medical diagnosis. The chapter is eminently suggestive and helpful. It would be impossible to specify each point of excellence without reproducing the entire book; but in glancing here and there one is struck with many desirable innovations, such as the table of

graphic symbols used in representing the phenomena of physical examination.

If adverse criticism is permissible on so excellent a work, it may be said that, in spite of the rearrangement of the contents, there is still a lack of compactness, a tendency to amplification both in text and illustration that makes a cumbersome volume and hampers ready reference. Additional cross references would be desirable. Judicious compression would improve it.

HENRY GOODWIN WEBSTER.

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